

## The Foundation of Constantinople 269

irble, but of unknown shape, and historians have agreed upon the probability of its having been circular, square, or of the shape of a narrow rectangle. It was full of noble statuary, and was surrounded by an imposing pile of stately buildings. To the north lay the great church of Sancta Sophia; to the east the Senate House of the Augustaeum, called to distinguish it from the Senate House of the Forum; on the south lay the palace, entered by an enormous brazen gate, called Chalce, the palace of the Hippodrome, and the Baths of Zeuxippe. The street connecting the Augustaeum with the Forum of Constantine was known as *Mese*, or middle-street, and was entered on the western side.

In the Augustaeum, which later Emperors filled with new statues, there stood in Constantine's day a single marble column known as the Milion—from which were measured distances throughout the Empire,—a marble group representing Constantine and Helena standing on either side of a gigantic cross, and a second statue of Helena upon a pedestal of porphyry. It was in this Augustaeum, moreover, that was to stand for a thousand years the huge equestrian statue of Justinian, known through all the world and described by many a traveller before the capture of the city by the Turks, who broke into a thousand pieces.

To the west of the Augustaeum lay the Forum of Constantine, elliptical in form and surrounded by noble colonnades, which terminated at either end in spacious portico in the shape of a triumphal arch, in the centre, which, according to an old tradition,